SUBJECT: MSF Computer Utilization Study
Final Report - Case 231

DATE: December 29, 1967

FROM: B. H. Liebowitz

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

This memorandum summarizes the results of Task 31, the Manned Space Flight (MSF) Computer Utilization Study. The purpose of the study was threefold:

1. To assist MSF in conducting a survey of its computer resources.

2. To determine existing or potential problem areas in computer utilization.

3. To assist in the development of an Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Master plan for MSF.

The first two efforts have been completed. The third effort has been expanded to include the development of requirements for a planning system. Work will continue in this area under General Mission Engineering Studies.

The results of the computer resource survey, which was undertaken by the Office of Manned Space Flight assisted by Center and Bellcomm personnel, were published in October 1966.[1] The published report described the use of computers in MSF; the existing computer capabilities; the responsibilities, organization and staffing of computer personnel; and existing computer resource management techniques. It also contained a funding summary and an inventory of MSF computers.

A problem paper analysis based on the results of the survey was then undertaken by Bellcomm. Visits were made to Headquarters and the MSF Centers to discuss potential problem areas with NASA personnel.[2],[3],[4],[5] Five major problem areas were identified and described: 1) the computer acquisition process, 2) reporting requirements, 3) resource sharing, 4) requirements control and 5) software management. The results of the study were presented to the MSF Resources Sharing Panel on June 1, 1967. The completed report was transmitted to MSF/MSR for publication in October 1967.[6]

Assistance in the development of a planning system commenced under Task Order 31. Two trips were made for the purpose of exchanging views with planning personnel.[7],[8] An initial description of a planning system was developed and discussed with MSR personnel.

Burt H. Liebowitz

1031-BHL-fcm   B. H. Liebowitz

Attachment
   References

BELLCOMM, INC.

REFERENCES

1. "Computer Systems Survey, " Office of Manned Space Flight, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D. C., October 1966.

2. "Trip Report: Computer Acquisition Process," Memorandum for File, W. J. Martin, March 1, 1967.

3. "Trip Report: Problem Area Background, Task 31," Memorandum for File, W. J. Martin, March 14, 1967.

4. "Trip Report: Background Data for Task 31," Memorandum for File, W. J. Martin, March 20, 1967.

5. "Trip Report: Background Data for Task 31, MSFC," Memorandum for File, W. J. Martin, April 6, 1967.

6. "Computer Systems Survey Problem Study," Office of Manned Space Flight, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D. C.,

7. "Visit to BTL, Whippany to Review Control of Software for NIKE Project," Memorandum for File, L. B. Nothern, November 17, 1967.

8. "Trip Report: Review of ADP Planning and 2410 Preparation at Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, Memorandum for File, L. B. Nothern, November 20, 1967.

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